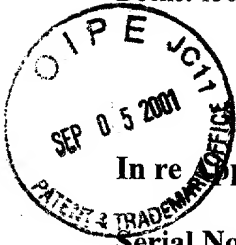


1714
A



In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

In re Application of: Rogers et al

Serial No.:

09/905,344
~~09/906,344~~

Group Art Unit: 1714

Filed: July 14, 2001

Examiner: (Not Yet Assigned)

For: Reinforced Designed Cellular Coal

Certificate of Mailing

Date of Deposit: 8/31/01

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to addressee, under C.F.R. Section 1.10 on the date indicated above.

By

Auzville Jackson, Jr.

Preliminary Amendment

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In response to the "Notice of Omitted Items" issued by the Patent Office and mailed on August 7, 2001, please amend the above-identified Patent Application as follows:

In the Specification:

At page 5, line 5, delete the paragraph beginning "Figure 6..."

At Page 20, line 22, change "Figures" to - - Figure - - and delete "and 6 respectively"

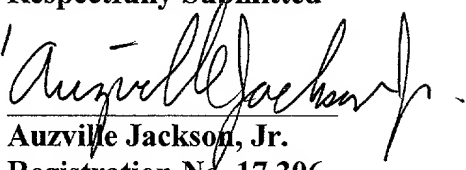
Remarks

With the aforementioned deletion of the references to Figure 6, a Figure 6 is no longer required in the application. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that

the application was complete as filed and no further action in this regard is required.

Clean and marked-up copies of the pertinent page 5 of the specification are included herewith.

Respectfully Submitted

8/31/01 
Auzville Jackson, Jr.
Registration No. 17,306

8652 Rio Grande Road
Richmond, VA 23229
(804) 740-6828
Fax: (804) 740-1881

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Figure 5 is a photographic mage of a coal-base cellular product incorporating differing cell sizes in the shape of the letter T.

5 [Figure 6 is a photographic image of a coal-based cellular product incorporating differing cell sizes in the shape of the letter T.]

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Detailed Description

10

According to the method described in aforementioned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/453,729, a low density, i.e., from about 0.1 to about 1.0g/cm³, and preferably from about 0.2 to about 0.5g/cm³, coal-based cellular product is produced from powdered coal particulate preferably less than about 15 1mm in diameter by the controlled heating of the powdered coal in a "mold" under a non-oxidizing atmosphere. The starting material coal may include bitumen, anthracite, or even lignite, or blends of these, but is preferably bituminous, agglomerating coals that have been comminuted to an appropriate particle size, preferably to a fine powder below about -60 to -80 mesh. As used herein, the term 20 "coal-based" is meant define that the cellular products described herein are prepared or manufactured by the "controlled swelling" of ground or comminuted coal.

47

The resulting cellular material was cut to reveal the graded cellular structure shown in Figure 3.

Example 4

5 An NMP (n-methyl pyrrolidone) extract of a low volatile bituminous coal was ground until all material passed through a 60-mesh screen. It was loaded into a ceramic mold and heated slowly to a temperature of 475°C and held for seven hours. The exterior material volatilized first and was pushed outward to the mold surface by the expanding interior giving rise to the pronounced "skin-core" structure shown in Figure 4.

Example 5

15 A high volatile bituminous coal was ground and sieved to produce two distinct particle sizes. The first (1) passed through a 60 mesh screen and the second (2) through a 35 mesh but not a 60 mesh screen. A T-shaped mold was constructed from paper and centered in a cylindrical steel mold. The relative areas of the T and the surrounding mold were used to determine the amounts of each material used. In one case, fraction 1 was loaded into the T and fraction 2 into the surrounding mold. In the second case, fraction 2 was loaded into the T and fraction 1 into the surrounding mold. Both were heated to 475°C at a heating rate of 2°C per minute and held at this temperature for seven hours. The resulting cellular materials were cut to reveal the linearly-graded cell structure shown in Figure[s] 5 - - - [and 6 respectively].



Figure 5 is a photographic image of a coal-base cellular product incorporating differing cell sizes in the shape of the letter T.

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